UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, : 16-cr-00474-FB

: U.S. Courthouse: Brooklyn, New York - versus -

JOHN DOE,

Defendant : February 22, 2021

TRANSCRIPT OF CRIMINAL CAUSE FOR VIOLATION OF SUPERVISED RELEASE BEFORE THE HONORABLE ROBERT M. LEVY UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

PPE A R A N C E S: (VIA TELEPHONE AND VIDEO)

For the Government: Seth D. DuCharme, Esq.

Acting U.S. Attorney

BY: Lindsay Gerdes, Esq.

Assistant U.S. Attorney 271 Cadman Plaza East Brooklyn, New York 11201

For the Defendant: Nancy Lee Ennis, Esq.

40 Fulton Street

23rd Floor

New York, New York 10038

<u>Transcription Service</u>: Transcriptions Plus II, Inc.

61 Beatrice Avenue West Islip, NY 11795 Laferrara44@gmail.com

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound-recording, transcript produced by transcription service

```
2
                            Proceedings
 1
              THE CLERK: This is a Criminal Cause for
 2
   Violation of supervised release, United States of America
 3
   v. Gene Borello, case number 16-cr-474.
              Can I have the parties state their name for the
 4
 5
   record, for the government please?
 6
              MS. GERDES: Good afternoon, your Honor.
 7
              Lindsay Gerdes for the United States and I'm
 8
   joined by Probation Officer Mike Imrek.
 9
              THE COURT: Good afternoon.
10
              MS. ENNIS: And it's Nancy Ennis for Mr.
11
   Borello and Mr. Borrello is also present listening in.
12
              Good afternoon, your Honor.
13
              THE COURT: Good afternoon, your Honor. Good
14
   afternoon, Mr. Borrello.
15
              THE DEFENDANT: Good afternoon, Judge.
16
              THE COURT: All right. So do you understand
17
    that because of the pandemic, it's not safe for all of us
18
   to be in the same room together or in a courthouse.
19
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I understand.
20
              THE COURT: And so as a result, you and I and
21
    the prosecutor and court personnel are appearing by video
22
    and your lawyer unfortunately is appearing only by audio
23
   but not by video.
24
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
25
              THE COURT: Do you have a problem with that or
```

```
3
                            Proceedings
1
   were you --
 2
              THE DEFENDANT: No, I'm okay with that.
 3
              THE COURT: And so I'm making a finding under
   the CARES Act that it would be both in the interest of
 4
 5
   justice and I believe in you interest, to go ahead with
 6
    the arraignment today and the bail application.
 7
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
 8
              THE COURT: Have you discussed this with your
 9
   lawyer?
10
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
11
              THE COURT: All right. So I am just going to
12
   ask defense counsel, do you on behalf of your client
13
    consent to proceed as we've just described?
14
              MS. ENNIS: Yes, your Honor.
15
              THE COURT: Okay. And are you satisfied that
16
   Mr. Borrello's consent is knowing and voluntary?
17
              MS. ENNIS: Yes.
18
              THE COURT: All right. So do you understand,
19
   Mr. Borrello that you're here because the probation
20
   department has filed a violation of supervised release
21
   petition?
22
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
23
              THE COURT: And that (audio interference) a
24
   number a allegations in that petition.
25
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.
```

```
4
                            Proceedings
 1
              THE COURT: Have you had a chance to talk to
 2
   your lawyer about the charges and --
 3
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
              THE COURT: -- (audio interference) explained
 4
 5
    them to you?
 6
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              Yes.
 7
              THE COURT: Do you understand them all?
 8
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.
 9
              THE COURT: All right. And counsel, are you
10
   satisfied that your client understands the charges
11
   against him?
12
              MS. ENNIS: Yes.
13
              THE COURT: And how does he plead?
14
              MS. ENNIS: He pleads not guilty.
15
              THE COURT: Okay. So who would like to go
16
    first here? What's the government's position on bail at
17
    this point?
18
              MS. GERDES: Judge, I spoke to Ms. Ennis and we
19
   are asking for a detention here and given that the burden
20
   is on the defense on a VOSR, we would ask that she
21
   present any package she would have first and then I can
22
   respond.
23
              THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Ennis?
24
              MS. ENNIS: Yes, I'm ready to proceed.
25
   proposed that he be released to live at his mother's
```

5 Proceedings The government is very aware of that address, as 1 home. 2 is the probation department. And I believe his mother 3 was going to try to phone in. I don't know if she has successfully been able to do yet but I've been in regular 4 5 consultation with her since early this morning. So 6 that's fine with her. 7 The condition that I'm suggesting is that he be 8 placed on electronic monitoring and that that be pretty much around the clock and that he just be permitted to 9 10 leave when he has specific approval to leave, for 11 example, for a doctor's appointment that's been pre-12 approved. 13 So he would be detained on home detention for 14 the duration while we try to figure out this matter and 15 if necessary, they'd be willing to post some kind of cash 16 bail, although they don't have a lot of money to offer. 17 I would suggest something in the neighborhood between 5 18 and \$10,000 and that is essentially what we're proposing, 19 the principal issue being home detention where he would 20 remain for the duration of this case while we're sorting 21 it out. 22 THE COURT: All right. What is the 23 government's position?

24

25

MS. GERDES: Thank you, your Honor. As I said, we're here on a VOSR, so the burden is on the defense to

Proceedings

prove by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant is not a flight risk or a danger to the community.

I'm sure the Court has had a chance to review the VOSR report. The offenses of conviction here are extremely violent. The defendant engaged in a pattern of conduct that's a part of his association with the Bonanno Crime Family. He also committed lots of crimes on his own. He's been involved in multiple shootings, home invasions where people were tied up, brazen, broad-day burglaries of businesses, arsons, beatings. He also has a criminal history that pre-dates his federal case involving multiple gun convictions.

Mr. Borrello was given an extremely generous sentence of time served by Judge Block in large part due to his cooperation with the government (audio interference) discussed, so that's why I am discussing it here.

And the sentence of time served was basically
- it (audio interference) that could've put him in jail

for the rest of his life. While he was (audio

interference) under a microscope, court-ordered

supervision, he has (audio interference) say the most

egregious breach of trust coming in the form of him

committing what amounts to a new federal crime, depending

on which statute it's charged under. It could be

Proceedings

punished by anywhere from up to five to 20 years in jail.

And these threats that he made are just very, very serious, threatening to basically kill the husband of his ex-girlfriend and to brutally beat her father all because she refused to grant him permission to publish a picture of her in a book that he's working on.

Some of the messages are outlined in the VOSR report to the Court. They're very, very serious threats and from our perspective, you know, we have to take this very seriously and we are. After he made these threats, he showed up unannounced to the home of his exgirlfriend's mother and approached a vehicle there and only left after he realized that his ex-girlfriend wasn't in the car and when her mother confronted him about this, he initially lied and said he was never there. It was only after she said that she had him on video that he actually admitted to being there.

He's also charged with violating the terms of his supervised release for multiple association violations with convicted felons and associates of organized crimes, for hosting this podcast that effective glorifies crime and that type of activity committed by members of La Cosa Nostra and it appears as though the next best thing for him to committing crimes was being on air talking about them and I'm not going to sit here and

Proceedings

suggest that the association charges make him a danger to the community but they rather show his disrespect and contempt for the rules of the Court, the probation department and things that the government has discussed with him. It's as though he thinks he's above the law.

He's not reporting any of his income from these podcasts to probation, yet he's posting videos of himself on social media, holding thousands of dollars, wearing expensive Rolex watches, driving around in a high-end Porsche, wearing thousands of dollars in designer apparel.

But I think my arguments for detention all stem from the danger that he poses to the community. When somebody like him with a criminal history that includes shooting people and shooting at people, threatens to hurt or kill another individual, it's something that we as law enforcement agents take very seriously.

And he's also somebody who based on his past, has shown that he has inability to control his temper and his emotions and he acts on impulse, without really any regard for how it affects other people and that's what makes him so dangerous when he's set off.

And you know, the concern with just being on home confinement is that he committed the instant underlying offense, presumably from his house, using a

them, making these comments when he just didn't get something that he wanted and I don't think that there's any kind of documented history -- you know, we've been dealing with him for over five years, any documented history I'm aware of that suggests that he's particularly susceptible to COVID, he faces up to five years on these violations alone, ignoring any new federal charges and his guidelines range is 51 to 63 months.

So for all those reasons, the government believes that the bail package set forth by the defense is insufficient. They do not meet their burden here and we would ask that your Honor detain Mr. Borrello.

THE COURT: Ms. Ennis?

MS. ENNIS: Yes, your Honor, may I be heard?

THE COURT: Yes.

MS. ENNIS: Yes. Clearly we're not in a position to litigate the entire, you know, entity of these charges today in front of the Court but I would like to respond in several respects.

First of all, I believe the government will concede that there's no indication that Mr. Borrello is a flight risk because we have had a number of meetings in person and also by email and messaging and over the phone about these issues for almost a year now.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Proceedings

10

They've been raised, they've been argued, they've been repeated and with respect to the most inflammatory charge, that is that he threatened his ex, his ex-girlfriend of many years, we had a meeting in person about that on February 9th where all the agents were there, where AUSA Gerdes was there, where two people from probation were there. We suggested anger management might be an appropriate course of action for Mr. Borrello but we also discussed in full that he had subsequently apologized to his ex-girlfriend about any sort of falling out they had, and in fact that she had then gone to Gangland News, which the Court may or may not be aware of, which is published by Jerry Capeci and she had gone to Gangland News and said that she's not afraid of Mr. Borrello and she was kind of dismissive of these charges and that's been published.

And so while inflammatory, these charges are not new and her involvement in this matter is not new either. While Mr. Borrello was cooperating with the government for a period of years, she was also brought into help cooperate and did -- participated in discussions of some third-party cooperation and so she's -- it's complicated, it's not as uncomplicated as the government is trying to present here.

Next, I would like to say that really nothing

Nothing has happened to instigate this particular arrest.

has happened since February 9th, since our meetings on
February 9th which were where we parted ways on
relatively good terms at the end of that meeting.

There certainly has been no repeated incident.

I am concerned, your Honor, about the government's request for incarceration. As the government's well aware, Mr. Borrello was pivotal in the conviction of 21 that I know of so far, 21 members of the Bonanno Crime Family and related La Cosa Nostra individuals who are in custody now within the federal penal system. I believe most of them are still in custody.

And therefore, the government has failed to mention the extreme exposure that he would face if he were reincarcerated, a headache for the BOP, no doubt, you know, so a true danger to him and again, I think there's no indication that the government thinks he's a flight risk, since not this January but since January of 2020, we have been debating these issues because the government started out by just wanting Mr. Borrello to cease his podcast about -- that he does about life in the mob which he is focused upon trying to discourage from romanticizing the mob and from thinking it's a great thing. And we've been debating that but he has a First

Amendment right or he has some First Amendment rights that are not quashed by being on supervised release.

As I think the recent case in the Southern
District of New York showed, Judge Hellerstein said that
probation in the Southern District could not send Michael
Cohen, the lawyer for Donald Trump back to prison because
he was writing a book about his past, about -- even
though the probation department wanted him to remain
silent and Attorney General Barr wanted him to remain
silent. Judge Hellerstein ordered that he be released.

And so we have an element of the First

Amendment issue here, your Honor because it's really
these podcasts that he's been doing about his
reminiscences of his youth in the mob that have been
annoying the government and I think it's debatable
whether they should be annoying to the government.

But in any event, these are all issues that we cannot resolve here today but I think they are germane to the question of whether they should be released and I would ask your Honor to ask us any questions, if there's anything we have not made clear.

MS. GERDES: Judge, can I just (audio interference)?

THE COURT: I'm sorry, go ahead.

MS. GERDES: May I briefly respond, your Honor?

1 THE COURT: Yes, please.

MS. GERDES: Okay, thank you. Just a couple of points. First, the situation is non-analogous to the Michael Cohen situation. There is a strict (audio interference) on the defendant that he not associate (audio interference) short of having court-ordered supervision and that is just a term of his supervision that he is completely disregarded.

Second, to the extent that the defendant (audio interference) risk-harm to the defendant as a reason that the Court should not detain him, defendant himself has chosen to live in the Howard Beach community since -- almost since his release from jail, putting himself from, you know, living in the same area where the families of the people he cooperated against live. So he obviously didn't feel threatened or concerned about living in that area and the government is prepared to take measures (indiscernible) to ensure his continued safety.

Third, you know, one of the messages here -well, before I say the third point, there was (audio
interference) misimpression in the record. There was no
third-party cooperation at all from past -- his exgirlfriend in the case. I'm not going to (audio
interference) with defense counsel. I'm not (audio
interference). I've been a part of this case since the

beginning and that was not the situation.

And you know, third, I will say that the nature of these threats are just horrific. I mean, when you think about that he actually showed up to her mother's house after he said some of the things, he says, "The minute you call the cops on me and grow those balls, you watch, I'll blow your husband's head right off in the middle of the street, fucking try me. Not make me come to your fucking mother's house right now, I'm dead fucking serious. Don't forget about me. Remember what I used to do. I will grab your father right now and beat the dogshit out of him. Be happy I don't grab you and your fat ugly husband by the neck and drag you down the street."

We seriously considered our (audio interference) on detention in this case and believe it is the appropriate course of action (audio interference) meeting (audio interference) at our office and (audio interference) one thing about that. You know, the defendant was not taking responsibility for his conduct, and practically blaming other people and blaming other people that set him up for this.

And the reality is is the blame here falls square on his shoulders. He is the reason why we are here today and it's nobody else's fault and he should be

15 Proceedings detained until we appear in front of Judge Block. 1 2 THE COURT: Hold on just one minute. I just --3 Ms. Ennis said that the girlfriend, the ex-girlfriend has changed her mind and doesn't feel threatened by this. 4 5 What's your response to that? 6 MS. GERDES: Your Honor, what I will say is 7 that in speaking to her, she has vacillated on how she 8 and her family members have felt and she had -- I feel like I'm in the strangest position conveying, you know, 9 some of the conversations that she has had with the 10 11 government. She has said at times that they have felt 12 threatened, she has said at other times that they have not felt threatened. 13 14 THE COURT: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear (audio 15 interference) two. You're breaking up. 16 MS. GERDES: She has said some things to the 17 government at certain points in time and the government 18 has not, you know, spoken directly to her father. You 19 know, there's (audio interference) husband feels is very real, you know, that -- this is a situation where the 20

investigation that we did over the course of, you know,

defendant has preyed on people in that neighborhood for

years and people say certain things based on our

21

22

23

24

25

16 Proceedings 1 the case, but I would say that people in that 2 neighborhood and in that community are very afraid of 3 There is no question about that. THE COURT: All right. 4 5 MS. GERDES: He has a serious record (audio 6 interference) that he shot people in broad daylight and 7 in the street in Howard Beach and (audio interference) 8 beating people to a pulp, and so to the extent that she 9 has vacillated for whatever personal reasons or personal 10 things that she may be going through, these are threats 11 that the government takes very, very seriously knowing 12 everything we know about his past and about how he reacts 13 to situations that don't go his way. 14 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, can I say 15 something? Your Honor, can I say something? 16 MS. ENNIS: Hey, Gene --17 THE DEFENDANT: No, can I just say one thing, 18 Mr. Judge Levy? I was driving around with the father the 19 other day. 20 MS. ENNIS: Gene, Gene, I want to recommend 21 that you not say anything on the record. This is not the 22 appropriate time. 23 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. I'm not a threat, your 24 I'm not. I'm not going to hurt nobody. I didn't 25 nothing but help the government, your Honor. I put away

```
17
                            Proceedings
 1
   everybody. I put away crime bosses, everything. I made
 2
   one mistake. I made a mistake.
 3
              MS. ENNIS: Gene --
              THE DEFENDANT: And I (audio interference) her
 4
 5
   because we always fight with each other, your Honor.
   don't deserve to be in jail. I don't deserve this, your
 6
 7
   Honor. I know I made a mistake but I don't deserve to be
   detained. I made a mistake. I got to arguing with her.
 8
   She said something to me, I said something back to her.
 9
10
   I shouldn't said that. I spoke with the mother, the
11
   father, everybody. I was with them. They were hugging
12
        They were going to do my -- the mother was going to
13
   take the hair off my back with her laser machine.
14
              This is so drawn -- dragged -- thrown out of
15
   proportion, your Honor. It's because I do a podcast and
16
   I try to keep kids out of the street and I say something
17
    that I'm right and they go crazy on me over it.
                                                     I made a
18
   mistake, your Honor. I -- please do not keep me in jail.
19
   Please, your Honor. Please, I'm not going to hurt
20
   nobody.
21
              THE COURT: Ms. Gerdes, thank you. Ms. Gerdes,
22
   when were those last threats made?
23
              MS. GERDES: One moment, your Honor.
24
              MS. ENNIS: I believe it was --
25
              MS. GERDES: It was mid-January --
```

```
18
                            Proceedings
 1
              MS. ENNIS: -- January 9th. according to my
 2
   records and according to the complaint, it was January
 3
    9th.
              THE COURT: And --
 4
 5
              MS. ENNIS: January 9th of this year.
 6
              THE DEFENDANT: I was with the family.
 7
              MS. ENNIS: You mean subsequent to that. Gene,
 8
   I just have to advise you that anything that you say on
 9
   the record --
10
              THE DEFENDANT: I'm just saying, I want --
11
              MS. ENNIS: -- can be used against you.
12
              THE DEFENDANT: -- I want the judge to know
13
   because she's making me sound like a monster. I don't
14
   know why you're doing this to me, Lindsay. I did
15
    everything for you. Why you doing this to me?
16
              MS. GERDES:
                           Judge --
17
              THE DEFENDANT: I can't believe you're doing
18
   this to me.
19
              MS. GERDES: -- no one is disputing the
20
   cooperation effort --
21
              THE DEFENDANT: Then why you doing this to me?
22
   What did I do? I did a podcast? So what am I doing? I
23
   didn't even do anything. I made one mistake with my ex-
24
   girlfriend. Why are you burying me like this? Why are
25
   you doing this to me?
```

```
19
                            Proceedings
 1
              MS. ENNIS: Hey, Gene? Gene, I would really
 2
   recommend --
 3
              THE DEFENDANT: No, I did everything for this
 4
   lady.
 5
              THE COURT: All right. So Ms. -- is Mr.
 6
   Borrello's probation officer on the line as well?
 7
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: Yes, your Honor.
              THE COURT: Is Mr. Imrek --
 8
 9
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: Good afternoon.
                                                        It's
10
   Mike Imrek.
11
              THE COURT: Hi. Tell me a little bit about how
12
   you see the situation?
13
              THE PROBATION OFFICER: Judge, we do feel
14
   strongly with the government. We discussed this at
15
   length that based on his criminal history, we do think
16
    that there is potential for, you know, violence based on
17
   his strong criminal history category and his prior, you
18
   know, offenses. We do feel that even if the victim is
19
   not, you know, going forward, if she does not go forward
20
   later on that we do feel strongly that there is a
21
   possibility of him doing violence to her or anyone else
   that confronts him.
22
              In prior meetings that we've had with him, he's
23
24
   also mentioned people on Instagram, you know, that he has
25
   verbal arguments with, we hope, we have no evidence that
```

it went further than that but he does have back and forth with more than just his ex-girlfriend and her family members.

THE COURT: Well, almost --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me, this is -- excuse me, could I speak. This is Gene Borrello's mom.

THE COURT: Yes. Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, your Honor. I just want to let you know Gene is a very good-hearted person and Ms. Gerdes deep down knows that, okay? Gene does have bipolar and Gene does have no filter at times and Gene does say things that he doesn't mean. Gene had a very violent past, yes, he did and he was in a mobrelated situation, he was in a gang. He's no longer in that.

Gene is a changed person totally. He asked Samantha (ph.) -- him and her are always going at it for years. He asked Samantha if he could put the picture in the book. Samantha went off on him and said -- and Gene said to me (sic), "I wish you would speak to me like a human" and she wouldn't and they argued and that's all it was. And Gene has no filter and he just blurts it out.

Prior to that, he was sitting in the car with the father, the father was complaining about the wife, that she doesn't pay child support, so why -- they're

Proceedings

friends. So I don't know where this is all going and I know Lindsay was -- Ms. Gerdes also was very upset about the podcast but Gene is in a second chance program in the podcast and Gene says nothing, if you listen to them, we will send them to you, he does nothing but talk positive and tells the children to stay off the streets, it's not worth it. In the end, it's dead or jail or cooperation.

So I understand they're upset because of the comment but from what I understand, Rob, the husband was coerced to make that statement because Pudgy (ph.), the person that Gene put away is the one that gave the information and made the FBI go to the house and that is also fact.

So I'm not here to make my son be an angel but since he's been home, he's no longer in that gang and as far as him being associated with felons, those are cooperators, those are also like Gene, federal informants for the government, that's who he is with. Those are the people on the podcast. These are not organized crime because Gene can't be around organized crime because they'll kill him.

And as far as Howard Beach, don't stay in Howard Beach. Gene don't even have any friends. They don't know -- they just -- it looks like a (audio interference) out there when he's on these super

```
22
                            Proceedings
 1
   podcasts. He has one friend, okay? He's in suicide
 2
   missions half the time because he's so fucking -- excuse
 3
   me, he's so depressed. So they don't know the other
   side. I'm sorry, your Honor, that's all I have to say.
 4
 5
              And Gene could stay with me and I promise you,
 6
   he will stay in my house and nothing will --
 7
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, he could stay with
   me, too. I'm -- I'm his aunt. He could stay by my house
 8
   too. I live in Rockaway Beach and I --
 9
10
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We (indiscernible) Gene.
11
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- will put up the bond.
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You don't know what Gene
12
    (indiscernible) how long Gene has come. I want you to
13
14
   listen to --
15
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.
16
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- listen -- one year
17
   went by and he thanked everybody and all his fans and --
18
   to support him, and you should read all the fans from all
19
   around the world, all around the world, that they love
20
   him and how one wants to kill himself, and they're like
21
   oh, my God, Gene, you saved my life. Read them all.
22
   Tell Lindsay to pull it up -- Ms. Gerdes to pull them up.
23
    I'm sorry.
24
              MS. GERDES: Judge is --
25
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's all, your Honor.
```

```
23
                            Proceedings
   That's all I have to say.
1
 2
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm willing -- he could
 3
   stay by me, if anything, too. I live in Rockaway Beach.
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, if you don't want
 4
 5
   him in Howard Beach --
 6
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm his aunt.
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We are very -- we are a
 7
 8
   close knit family.
 9
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
10
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Gene strayed off --
11
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I will take him under my
12
   wing. I'll support him and I will do whatever is
   necessary to make sure he stays on the straight and
13
14
   narrow.
15
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, your Honor.
16
   Thank you, Lindsay. I know that you went after him, I
17
    know you (audio interference).
18
              MS. GERDES: Judge, (indiscernible) showed up
19
   at the house on January 24th of 2021 and it --
20
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is --
21
              MS. GERDES: I don't know who is speaking right
22
   now. I am trying to speak (audio interference). The day
23
   he showed up at the house, at least our information is
24
   January 24th, 2021 and (indiscernible) stated that -- and
25
   I just want to add that no one is (audio interference)
```

```
24
                            Proceedings
   arguing (audio interference). This is not a --
1
 2
              THE COURT: Ms. Gerdes, you're breaking up
 3
    (audio interference) --
              MS. GERDES: (Audio interference) that the
 4
 5
   government wanted to be in.
 6
              THE COURT: -- hear you.
 7
              MS. GERDES: This is not a personal thing.
 8
   have nothing else, your Honor.
 9
              THE COURT: All right. I was having a little
10
   trouble hearing what you said. You broke up a little
11
   bit, I think, your mic is -- I don't know what happened
12
           What was the last statement that you made?
13
              MS. GERDES: After I gave the dates, I just
14
   said this is not a personal thing. You know, it seems
15
   that (audio interference) trying to make it personal.
16
    I'm just as disappointed as anyone that we are in front
17
    of the Court on allegations as significant as this.
18
              THE COURT: So one of the questions I have,
19
   what (audio interference) January 24th and today?
20
   taken some time for him to be here. I'm assuming that
21
   whatever danger there was, hasn't -- in your view, hasn't
22
    abated since then and yet he has been out.
23
              MS. GERDES: He's --
24
              THE COURT: Why --
25
              MS. ENNIS: Your Honor? Your Honor?
```

1 THE COURT: Yes.

MS. ENNIS: Yes, your Honor. This is Nancy Ennis, one of Gene's attorneys. I would like to say that since then, we've had a full meeting with the government, with all the FBI agents, with two probation officers, a full and cordial meeting for several hours to discuss in all of these and to make a plan for anger management classes and things like that in the future. That was February 9th.

And the other thing that I know that has happened since then is that his ex-girlfriend called up Gangland News, I think that she likewise likes the attention of all this, she called up Gangland News and Jerry Capeci and in the course of that, she said she is not afraid of him. That's what I know has happened since then.

This is not to cast aspersions on her but to let the Court know they were together for years while he was -- while Gene was in the mob and that the volatile life is one that they shared.

THE COURT: Uh-hum.

MS. ENNIS: (Audio interference) her present husband. I don't know if the Court -- Gene wanted to stress that her present husband who is the one who is really pushing this matter is a close friend of a person

26 Proceedings 1 that he cooperated against named Pudgy. 2 THE COURT: Well --MS. GERDES: Judge, that's based on 3 speculation. There is no evidence about that whatsoever 4 5 and I would ask the Court (indiscernible) to anything if 6 the evidence would draw is to the contrary. You know, 7 (audio interference) speculation, I will say. 8 THE COURT: All right. Well, I can't 9 speculate. All I can do is take whatever is before me 10 and what we have before me, number one, are very 11 threatening statements, dangerous statements made by Mr. 12 Borrello and which indicate a danger and we also have a 13 period of time over a month at which those who are saying 14 that he's so dangerous and who are worried about him 15 remained out and I'm sure there are complicated reasons 16 for that as well. 17 So how am I, who don't have a crystal ball, and 18 who don't know Mr. Borrello, to understand that, those 19 who knew him best felt that he could remain out without 20 these conditions, just with the normal conditions of 21 supervision for over a month before he's -- well, almost 22 a month, while he's here. When is he -- do we have a 23 date for the hearing, the VOSR hearing? 24 MS. ENNIS: March 31st, I believe. 25 THE COURT: So it's almost maybe just a little

Proceedings

longer than -- it's another (audio interference) longer than (audio interference) before his hearing. Is there -- what has changed between today and the 24th that makes you believe that he can't remain in the same situation or in a more tightened situation than he was between the 24th and today? What has changed about that?

MS. GERDES: Your Honor, part of the issue -and you're right, there are a lot of complicated reasons
why there was a delay between February 9th when we met
with the defendant and (audio interference) allegations
until now, that we're here.

Judge Block actually did sign the arrest warrant last Tuesday. You know, this was a significant report (audio interference) for the probation department to put it together. Because of the defendant's cooperation with the government and because of the different aspects of this case and because of, what I will say is the delicacy with which we have had to handle witnesses connected (audio interference) this aspect of the investigation to this whole case, things take time.

He has been monitored and been on different levels of, I'll say tighter supervision since that meeting but the real concern here is even when we initially approached him about the threats that he made to his ex, he actually thought that this related to

Proceedings

I'm not convinced that there wasn't a physical altercation between him and another person. It very well seems like it was. And there was an incident with him and other people on the street but what this shows us is that as much as he wants to say that he is somebody who is rehabilitated and doing the right thing, that's not what he's doing.

You know, behind closed doors and under the backdrop of social media where it's more difficult for law enforcement to always monitor things like private text messages, private audio threats that are sent to people and then disappear, where he's specifically telling people, if you go to police, this is what is going to be done to you.

Those aren't the cases that witnesses are always just coming forward and thrilled to cooperate with the government against, especially when it involves people with long histories together.

So what I will say though is at this meeting when he was confronted about this activity, we were trying to figure out different options to mitigate the threat to his ex-girlfriend, to her family members, and to the community at large and based on the way the defendant has responded, like I said, he took no

```
29
                            Proceedings
 1
   responsibility for his conduct really whatsoever. It was
 2
   more of the blame game. I can't believe that she came
 3
   forward. I can't believe that it was her. So-and-so is
   behind this, you know?
 4
 5
              I really am loathed to kind of air all of that
 6
   out but the meeting --
 7
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Excuse me,
 8
   Lindsay.
 9
              MS. GERDES: -- (audio interference) somebody
    (audio interference) --
10
11
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. It's his mom
12
   again, real fast. Are you aware that Samantha follows
13
   Gene --
14
              MS. GERDES: His mom was not at the meeting. I
15
    don't know why I am being interrupted right now.
16
              THE COURT: Yes, please, I'm sorry, ma'am.
17
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay.
                                                             Ι
18
   will speak after her. Okay.
19
              MS. GERDES: Okay. So -- and again, I don't
20
   want to say anything that is going to put any other
21
   witness right now more so in harm's way, put more of a
22
   target on their back. Like I said, this is a delicate
23
   situation where it's not just, you know, him making
24
   threats against his ex, it's against her family members,
25
   people who mean something to her, people who he doesn't
```

Proceedings

have the same history with, people who are without question affected by getting a death threat from somebody like him who shot people in the past.

And given that he did all of this from home, given that, you know, he's been really -- was disrespectful during the entire meeting and not responding in a way that gave anyone in the room any kind of comfort that there wasn't potentially going to be further escalation of this, whether it was with her or with people he could have set this up or with other people or just people generally in the community because even based on his own admissions, he has had other issues with other people and, you know, unfortunately he is not somebody who can control his anger and his rage.

And you know, he may think that he's not going to do something to her but that doesn't mean he's not going to take his aggression and frustration in a physical way out on somebody else which is something he's done before.

And like I said, your Honor, we wouldn't be here making this argument unless (audio interference) outcome, knowing everything that we know about him and about the case.

MS. ENNIS: Your Honor, may I be heard?

THE COURT: Yes.

Proceedings

MS. ENNIS: Yeah, this is Nancy Ennis again. I was at that meeting. It took several hours. At first when they broached that subject, he did react and he was taken by surprise and his initial reaction was to be dismissive of his girlfriend's credibility, let's just put it that way and to think that she had blown things out of proportion, so forth and so on.

That said, as the meeting progressed, it is not fair to say that he did not take responsibility. He specifically did and I hesitate to say that because I'm his attorney and I don't want to in essence "confess" on his behalf but this has been raised, he did take responsibility and he said he felt that their reaction to what had happened was overblown and tried to explain it in the context of his relationship with his ex-girlfriend and that he clearly had resolved it since that time and was in good contact with her and her family but he did take responsibility. That's just simply the case. I was there.

THE DEFENDANT: I speak to the mother everyday, your Honor. I am always on the phone with the family. I still talk to them, your Honor. I'm friends with them, your Honor. That's what I am trying to say, this is so - I understand I made a mistake, I did. I own up to that. But I would never hurt them. I've never hurt

```
32
                            Proceedings
 1
   nobody, I haven't been in no altercation. I sit in the
 2
   house. I don't have nobody to hang out with. I call
 3
   Instagram, and I talk a little bit. I don't do anything
   wrong, your Honor. I don't know why -- I don't
 4
 5
   understand what's going on right now. I'm so confused.
 6
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Gene, explain to --
 7
   Gene, explain to him that Samantha follows your story
 8
   please and we have --
 9
              THE DEFENDANT: She goes on my Instagram.
10
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- (audio interference)
11
   follow you.
12
              THE DEFENDANT: She goes on my stuff. This is
   so ridiculous, your Honor. This is like -- this is so
13
14
   blown out of proportion.
15
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She follows him.
16
              THE DEFENDANT: I -- I don't understand what I
17
   did wrong -- like I understand I made the threat, I made
18
   the mistake but I didn't mean that. I would never hurt
19
   them. I spoke them. I spoke to the family. I'm with
20
   the father. I drove around in my car, we're talking.
21
   They know I would never hurt them.
22
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Don't forget --
23
              THE DEFENDANT: I wouldn't hurt nobody no more.
24
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's not that person no
25
   more. He may be his mouth, yes.
```

33 Proceedings 1 THE DEFENDANT: He could make me go back to 2 jail for this. 3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's not -- has he --4 has he hurt anybody since he's been in one year? 5 MS. ENNIS: Yeah, I would mention that the acts 6 of violence that the government keeps discussing end key 7 date, the year 2014 when I started to represent him, that 8 I have represented him since late 2014 and so I know that he was incarcerated and did not have any incidents that 9 10 I'm aware of during that time as his attorney. 11 THE COURT: All right. Well, thank you 12 everyone. This is by no means an easy case. 13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. 14 THE COURT: And I think this unfortunately is 15 going to be decided by the burden of proof which is how 16 judges are instructed that they have to act. For 17 example, if I thought that it was just as likely that Mr. 18 Borrello would not harm Samantha, I believe is her name, 19 and her family --20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. 21 THE COURT: If I thought that it was just 22 likely, or even more likely than not that he would not 23 harm them, that would not be enough because what I would 24 need to have is clear and convincing evidence that there 25 would be no harm and the problem is that when someone is

Proceedings

on probation or supervised release and under court orders, to make threats of violence that are that serious, that's -- courts have to take that seriously and there's a very heavy burden on a defendant who has made those statements.

Now I may be convinced that it's more likely than not that you won't hurt anyone but that's not enough, the law instructs me that the evidence has to be clear and it has to be convincing and after statements like that have been made while someone is under court orders, the question then is well, will you move from words to action and if the statement had been made once or twice, I think they would carry less weight but the problem is it's a heavy burden for you to overcome.

But what has troubled me and what I was trying to probe was the period of time between the 24th and today essentially where apparently nothing has happened, there have been no other threats, there's been no violence and the government was not -- I understand the argument that it takes time to bring things together but if the danger was that serious, you know, the government, I assume, would've moved very quickly if it thought that it was imminent.

So what I am guessing is that the government's position is that the danger is serious but that it wasn't

35 Proceedings as imminent and it could happen at any time because of volatility. So my ruling as I've outlined a little earlier is based on the burden of proof and the burden of proof is clear and convincing evidence and it's on (audio interference) to prove by clear and convincing evidence that he's not a danger and because those words that came out of your mouth, Mr. Borrello, were so serious, even if you don't mean them now, it's hard for me to see clear and convincing evidence that you would be able to restrain yourself in the future. So as I said, it's a very close case, it's very Judge Block will be the one who will ultimately decide what your future will be but for the bail hearing, I'm going to deny the bond (audio interference) because I don't think you can meet the high burden of (audio

interference) convincing evidence that there's no danger.

THE DEFENDANT: Why would you do this to me,

Lindsay? Why would you do this to me, Lindsay? What did

20 I do to you? I did nothing wrong to you? Why would you

21 do this to me?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

25

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She retracted it, your
Honor. She retracted her statement that they're (audio
interference).

THE DEFENDANT: (Indiscernible).

```
36
                            Proceedings
 1
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello?
 2
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm getting a better
 3
   lawyer, this is so sad. This is sad.
              THE DEFENDANT: (Indiscernible).
 4
 5
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I (audio interference)
 6
   everything for this judge.
 7
              THE DEFENDANT: Why would you do this to me?
 8
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, just (audio
 9
   interference) out. This is --
10
              THE DEFENDANT: This (audio interference).
11
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is so sad.
12
              THE COURT: I don't think anyone --
13
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So now he goes in --
14
              THE COURT: -- (audio interference).
15
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wait. So now he's going
16
   to go in and get COVID.
17
              THE DEFENDANT: This is it. This is it.
18
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello?
19
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Twenty-three-hour lockup
20
   in a hole now my son's going to go now.
21
              THE DEFENDANT: I wouldn't hurt nobody, your
22
   Honor.
23
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And do you know what?
24
   He's probably going to get his throat slit in there from
25
   twenty-one informants that he helped the government put
```

```
37
                            Proceedings
   away. Very nice.
1
 2
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, my God.
 3
              THE COURT: Is there a danger? Has anyone --
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's so sad.
 4
 5
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's no reason for
 6
    this.
 7
              THE COURT: Is he --
 8
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's no reason for
 9
   this.
10
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So sad.
11
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would take him home.
12
   I would take full responsibility.
13
              MS. GERDES: Judge, (audio interference).
14
              THE COURT: Excuse me. Could everyone please,
15
   I need some silence.
16
              MS. GERDES: Lindsay, please. Lindsay --
17
              THE CLERK: Excuse me. Stop talk -- we are
18
   recording the proceeding, so stop yelling. We don't know
19
   who is talking. But Lindsay, this is Sui-May, we're
20
   having a hard time hearing you on and off. Maybe just
21
   stay at a certain area.
22
              MS. GERDES: Okay. Can you hear me now?
23
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is not right.
24
              THE CLERK: This is good. Stay where you are.
25
   Okay. Go ahead.
```

```
38
                            Proceedings
 1
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I said Lindsay,
 2
   please.
 3
              THE COURT: Is there a danger for him at the
   MDC?
 4
 5
              MS. GERDES: There is no specific person right
 6
   now at the MDC that the defendant cooperated against that
 7
   I am aware of. This (audio interference) at the MDC and
 8
   we are going to make sure that he's not in a position
    (audio interference).
 9
10
              THE COURT: How are we going to make sure?
11
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Take away his phone?
12
              MS. GERDES: Since all of this is (audio
13
   interference) I would rather now put all of that on the
14
   record but I am going to be in contact with the legal
15
   staff at the MDC and with the BOP to address the
16
   situation, as part of the conversation that I started
17
   before today (audio interference) is a very likely
18
   outcome.
19
              THE COURT: Are there any members of the
20
   Bonanno organization at the MDC at this time?
21
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
22
              THE COURT: If you know?
23
              MS. GERDES: I don't know the answer to that.
24
   No one that the defendant cooperated against is at the
25
   MDC (audio interference).
```

39 Proceedings 1 THE COURT: All right. But it's a large 2 organization and there is some loyalty in that 3 organization. MS. GERDES: Understood, your Honor and we've 4 5 already taken (audio interference) steps underway to 6 (audio interference) not have the defendant at the MDC 7 but like I said, since we're on tape today, I prefer not 8 to discuss that on the record. 9 THE COURT: Okay. 10 THE DEFENDANT: So not going to happen (audio 11 interference). 12 THE COURT: All right. So what I will --UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor? 13 14 THE COURT: Excuse me. What I would like from 15 the government is just you can send it ex parte to 16 chambers with a copy to Mr. Borrello's counsel. I would 17 like to know if there are any members of the Bonanno 18 organization at the MDC and what efforts will be made to 19 make sure that he's safe. 20 MS. GERDES: Yes, your Honor. 21 THE COURT: So do we know if there's -- is 22 there a way to accelerate the hearing before Judge Block? 23 MS. GERDES: I can reach out to his deputy and 24 ask that that happen. We have March 31st as the date but 25 I will reach out to Mike Inelli and ask for an earlier

```
40
                            Proceedings
   date.
1
 2
              THE COURT: Okay. So if you can get me that --
 3
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Can I please
 4
   say --
 5
              THE COURT: -- by the end of the day or
 6
    tomorrow morning at 10.
 7
              THE DEFENDANT: Ma, don't worry no more.
 8
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor? Your Honor?
 9
              MS. GERDES: Yes, your Honor.
10
              THE COURT: Thank you.
11
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor?
12
              THE COURT: Yes.
13
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, isn't there
14
   a pandemic right now? Didn't they release thousands and
15
    thousands disgusting inmates?
16
              THE COURT: All right.
17
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're putting someone
18
   in that helped the government, twenty-one informed -- he
19
   put away twenty-one people for them, the biggest case,
20
   Vinny Asaro.
21
              THE DEFENDANT: They don't care.
22
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They got killed with
23
   that. You don't remember all this? My son stood up for
24
   them and took their back and I understand he made that
25
   statement but he is friends with them. Samantha said it,
```

```
41
                           Proceedings
   it's a petty situation. I sent the article to Ms. Ennis.
1
 2
   She said petty. She wrote -- she put the word petty in
   there. They're all friends. She knows Rob. It's over
 3
   with. It's been over with. Please, your Honor, I will
 4
 5
   take responsibility. He could stay in my house or my
 6
   sister's. He will not go out --
 7
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                    Yes.
 8
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- he'll have an ankle
   bracelet. I don't want him to get COVID. He has
 9
10
   bronchial -- he has acute bronchial. If he -- when he
11
   gets cold, it goes right into his chest. Like I don't
   want -- they're releasing people right now. Why is he
12
13
    going in? He's doing nothing but the right thing.
14
              Yes, he did speak a little bit. He does have a
15
   mouth but he is bipolar and he does say certain things
16
   sometimes but he didn't hurt nobody and he's not going to
17
   hurt nobody. He has a girlfriend, a nice girlfriend,
18
   Joanna (ph.). She texts me all of the time from Staten
19
   Island. It's over with. There's nothing going on. I
20
    don't understand why they're doing this.
21
              I understand why they're doing this, I
22
   shouldn't say I don't understand, I do understand because
23
   he made a --
24
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because of husband.
25
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- violent threat, yes
```

```
42
                            Proceedings
 1
   but please, your Honor, please reconsider this, just
 2
   until Judge Block -- if Judge Block puts him away for ten
 3
   years, so be it but now please, just let him come here
   and, you know, learn his lesson.
 4
 5
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yup. Take his phone
 6
   away from him, put him on the ankle bracelet --
 7
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                    Yeah.
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- and that's it.
 8
 9
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Believe me, yeah.
10
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He has no more social
11
   media, no -- well, he won't do --
12
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nothing, he won't do
13
   nothing.
14
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- he won't anything.
15
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He won't do the show no
16
   more.
17
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He won't do the show
18
   anymore.
19
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nothing.
20
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He won't (audio
21
   interference).
22
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, and that's a
23
    (audio interference).
24
              MS. GERDES: Judge, I'm going to ask the Court
25
   to (audio interference) upon its ruling.
```

```
43
                            Proceedings
 1
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, it will end
 2
   everything.
 3
              MS. GERDES: I think the (audio interference)
 4
   needs to be concluded at this point.
 5
              THE COURT: Thank you.
              THE CLERK: Yes.
 6
 7
              THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Thank you.
 8
              THE CLERK: Thank you.
 9
              THE COURT: I know that you all had an
10
   opportunity to speak. Thank you.
11
              MS. GERDES: Thank you, your Honor.
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you.
12
13
              THE CLERK: Thank you.
14
              MS. ENNIS: Thank you.
15
              THE CLERK: Okay. Have a good one, everyone.
16
              THE DEFENDANT: Now what? What do I do?
17
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't know.
18
                         (Matter Concluded)
19
                               -000-
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

I, LINDA FERRARA, hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the said proceedings is a true and accurate transcript from the electronic soundrecording of the proceedings reduced to typewriting in the above-entitled matter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested directly or indirectly in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 26th day of February 2021.

AAERT CET 656 Transcriptions Plus II, Inc.